Orbital
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FACT SHEET

1982-2010
28 Years in Space

Minotaur II

Suborbital Launch Vehicle

Minotaur II launches have 100% success and met all mission objectives, as pictured above, from left: TLV-2/IFT-8 - March 2002 and TLV-3/IFT-9 - October 2002.

Overview

The Minotaur II Target Launch Vehicles (TLVs) provide flight-proven, highly flexible, reliable, and cost-effective target solutions for strategic and medium range missile defense testing, as well as other suborbital missions. They are based on a combination of residual Minuteman II solid rocket motors with components and processes shared across the Minotaur-family of launch vehicles. As such, they build on the long, successful operational history of the Minuteman II ICBM motors. They also benefit from Orbital's unique background in the integration of surplus motors and state-of-the-art systems, a depth of experience spanning several decades.

The Minotaur family of launch vehicles are provided via the Orbital/Suborbital Program 2 (OSP-2) and managed by the U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC), Space Development and Test Wing's (SDTW) Launch Test Squadron (LTS) located at Kirtland AFB, NM.

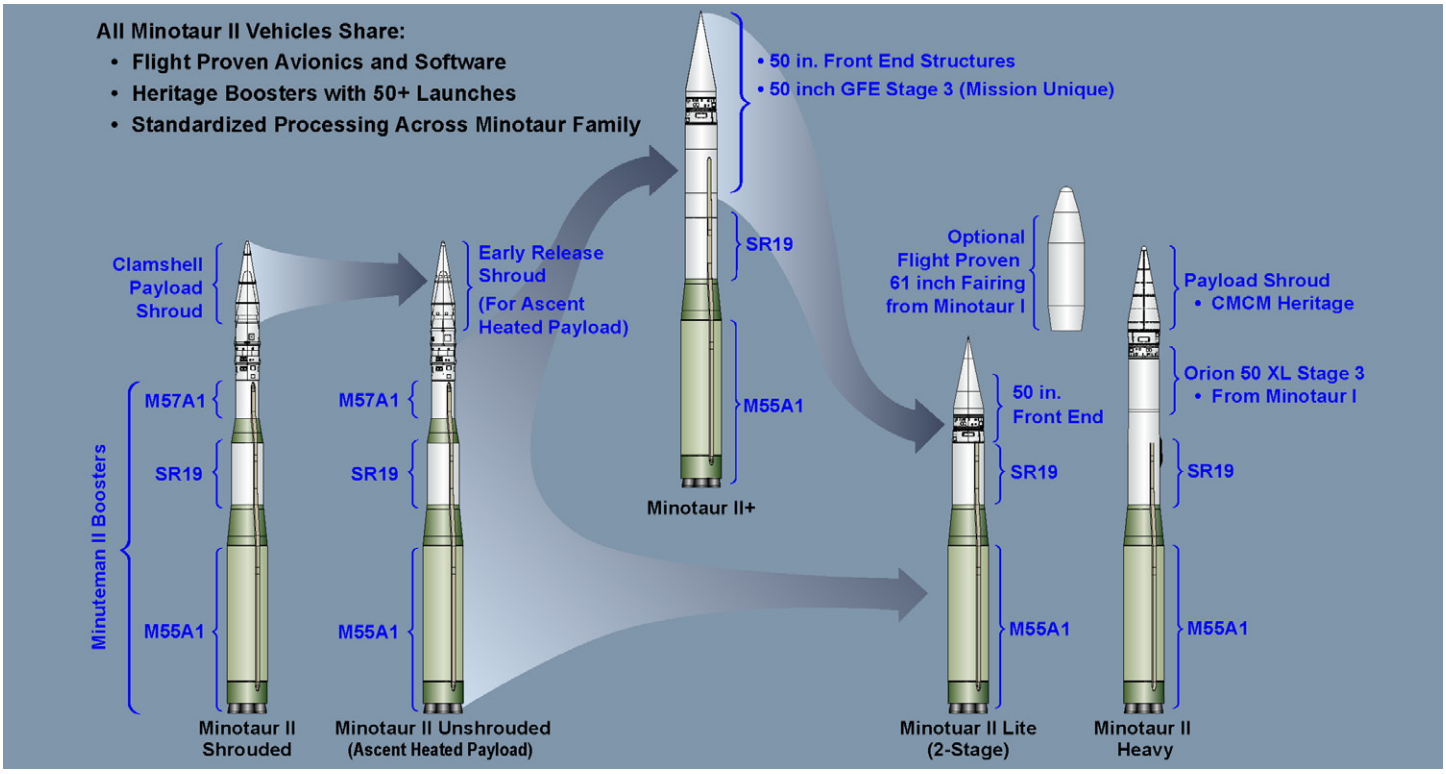
QUICK FACTS:

System Features

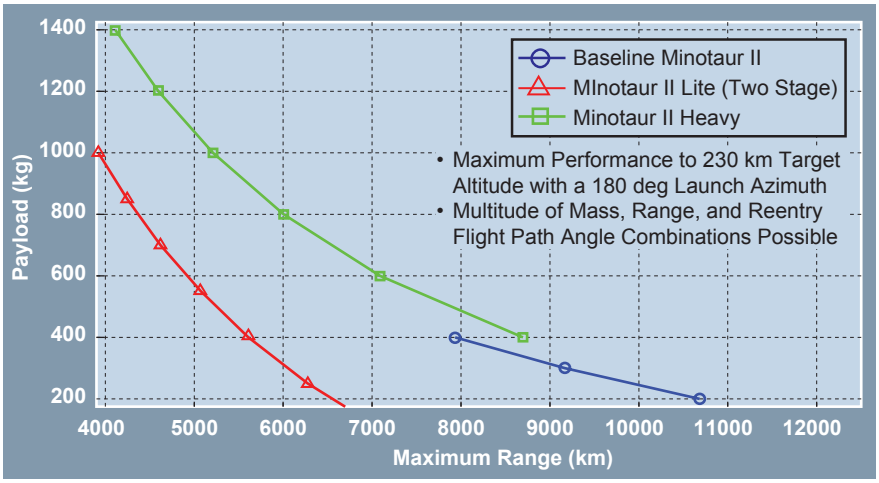
- Demonstrated flexible, responsive launch test support
- Avionics and software architecture common with all Minotaur-family launch vehicles
- Multiple configurations readily support varied target requirements, including ascent heated payloads, non-separating configurations, and deployment of multiple objects
- Growth Minotaur II Heavy configuration provides significant performance improvements with low risk, utilizing the same Orion 50XL Stage 3 motor from Minotaur I, Pegasus, Taurus, and other Orbital launch vehicles
- Responsive launch capabilities demonstrated on several missions

Minotaur II has demonstrated long term stand-by with one week call-up

Minotaur II



Minotaur II vehicles have demonstrated flexible adaptation to mission requirements



Multiple configurations provide a range of performance options

Performance

- Baseline Minotaur II delivers up to a 400 kg payload to a nearly 8000 km range
- Minotaur II Heavy delivers 1400 kg to 4000 km
- Proven support for pre-separation payload attitude control, multiple payload deployments, and payload telemetry re-radiation
- Flight proven guidance provides highly accurate target delivery

For technical details, please contact:

480.814.6566
minotaur@orbital.com
www.orbital.com

Additional information should be obtained from the USAF OSP Office

USAF SMC Space Development and Test Wing (SDTW)
Launch Test Squadron (LTS)
3548 Aberdeen Avenue S.E.
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5778
505.846.6489 505.846.5113

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